

S-E-C-R-E-T

25 January 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. Communist China Coverage: FBIS is supplying the intelligence community with a high volume of material on the current turmoil in Communist China. Twenty-six percent of the items carried on the FBIS Wire Service during the first two weeks of January were devoted to the Chinese situation; by mid-month some 40 percent of the items and 60 percent of the wordage on the Wire related to CPR developments. The bulk of material emanated from Peking radio and press broadcasts, Chinese regional radios, East European and Western press agency material, and Japanese reports. Most of the material was being filed by the Okinawa, West Coast, Hokkaido, and Tokyo bureaus, as well as the BBC's Hong Kong unit, although other bureaus contributed from a variety of sources.

The Okinawa Bureau was engaged in an intensive radio cruising effort to keep track of some 60 Chinese regional radios which were acting erratically. Regional broadcasts monitored by Okinawa and Hong Kong frequently provided valuable and unique material. For example, a Shanghai broadcast of 11 January reporting that rail service had been restored as far as Nanking was the first confirmation that the important Shanghai-Peking railway had been disrupted. The item came from Okinawa monitoring.

RPD analysts prepared items for the Wire Service which noted the atypical behavior of the provincial radios. A handful of key provinces, for example, failed to report local support for the Mao-initiated "Shanghai movement." RPD also supplied Agency components with reports on Soviet comment concerning CPR developments as well as Peking material bearing on Chou En-lai's relations with antiparty elements. (SECRET)

2. Togo Coup: An African Bureau FYI summarizing a four-minute proclamation by the Togo army chief of staff announcing a military takeover of the country enabled the Wire Service to break the news of the bloodless coup ahead of the commercial wire services. The message was carried on the Wire three minutes ahead of REUTERS and 34 minutes ahead of the ASSOCIATED PRESS. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Group 1

Excluded from automatic down-  
grading and declassification

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3. Reorganization Studies: The study on the feasibility of incorporating propaganda analysis functions in the Office of Current Intelligence has been completed with a determination by the DDI that these functions should remain with FBIS. A second study on the feasibility of combining foreign radio and document exploitation in overseas installations has not yet been completed. (SECRET)

4. Bangkok Bureau: The Saigon and Bangkok bureaus were authorized to proceed with the transfer of several monitors from Saigon to Bangkok as soon as documentation can be arranged. The Chief, Bangkok Bureau was also authorized to hire a Thai/Lao/English monitor locally. The bureau has interviewed and tested some 30 monitor applicants thus far.

Work on the operations site continued, with the bulk of equipment shipped from Washington expected to arrive the last part of January. The letter symbol "D" has been assigned to the Bureau for identification of copy. (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. Caribbean Bureau: A "deed of conveyance" was signed in San Juan on 30 December which transfers to the U.S. Government 258.9 acres of land for the Caribbean Bureau. This completes the acquisition of the bureau site containing some 653 acres.

The main building contract for the bureau is now 29.6 percent completed. Work is now considered to be on schedule in terms of the present completion date of 28 May 1967.

Five multilingual candidates, with capabilities in Spanish, French, Portuguese, German, Italian, Dutch, and Creole were selected during December for employment processing. (CONFIDENTIAL)

6. Special Services: Following an announcement by Radio Hanoi 30 December that captured U.S. pilots would be permitted to record messages to their families for broadcast by the North Vietnam radio, Washington area consumers requested expeditious handling and tapes of the recorded messages of U.S. prisoners. In addition to the usual lateral addressees for this material, the Chief of the State Department Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs requested that he be added as a wire addressee. An intelligence community committee on casualties and POW's also requested copies. The Okinawa Bureau filed the text and sent tapes of more than a dozen such messages. The tapes were forwarded to DIA which made copies for appropriate military casualty branches.

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East Coast Bureau met a request for tape recordings of five Havana programs in Creole to be used for training purposes. An Organization component was given permission to release to the Venezuelan Government a Radio Propaganda Report on "Cuba's Quarrel With the Venezuelan Communist Party."

The Key West Bureau has been supplying for Organization use an unusually large number of videotapes of Havana television items--28 tape segments totaling 8.5 hours of broadcast time in a four-week period. These included the 2 January Havana military parade and Fidel Castro's speech on the occasion, as well as newsreel clips described by Havana as the first films of damage to Hanoi from U.S. bombing. (CONFIDENTIAL)

7. RPD Services on Vietnam: Requests to RPD continued to relate primarily to Vietnam. The Southeast Asia and Vietnam specialist of the National Security Council staff at the White House was supplied at his request with Hanoi and Liberation Radio statements on the use of guerrilla forces in Vietnam, as well as with Trends and Survey articles bearing on guerrilla warfare. Defense Secretary McNamara's office was given detailed information on communist, particularly Soviet, charges since January 1962 that the United States uses bacteriological and chemical warfare in Vietnam. State Department inquiries have concerned Soviet elite references to the bombing of Hanoi; past Hanoi treatment of Thai-U.S. "collusion" in Vietnam; countries with which the DRV has signed aid agreements; Yugoslav policy on aid to Vietnam in mid-1965; "enlistment" of East European volunteers for service in Vietnam; and Viet Minh propaganda about the Korean war. (CONFIDENTIAL)

8. Research and Analysis: Agency, RAND Corporation, and congressional inquiries dealt with such questions as a Mao interview in August 1964; Soviet attention to Press Day; Moscow and Peking attention to the Ben Barka case; Albanian radio publicity for a "programmatic pamphlet of the Soviet Revolutionary Communists/Bolsheviks"; and information on Supreme Soviet sessions since 1957. A Radio Propaganda Report on "Cuba's Quarrel With the Venezuelan Communist Party," assembling evidence of conflict over revolutionary tactics, has generated a number of requests for additional copies. The analyst responsible for the report was invited to discuss aspects of Cuban relations with Latin American communist parties and support for insurgent movements with the ONE staff member for Latin America. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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9. Reports and Supplements: A World Reaction Report on the President's State of the Union message was published on 13 January by the Editorial and Radio Propaganda divisions. (UNCLASSIFIED)

10. Uses of FBIS Material: A variety of State-USIA dispatches referred to FBIS material. An airgram from the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad cited an Israeli broadcast in Arabic concerning an Iraqi pilot who defected to Israel. A USIA message to New Delhi noted FBIS reports that All-India radio and Radio Moscow are discussing exchanges of radio and television programs. A State cable of 15 December asked several African and Latin American embassies to comment on an FBIS report from ANSA that Congolese and Cubans are leading guerrilla forces in Venezuela. (SECRET)

11. Commendation: The Panama Bureau received a letter from U.S. Ambassador to Panama Adair expressing appreciation for support by FBIS and coverage of Panamanian events in particular. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

12. Lateral Services: At the request of the U.S. Embassy in Japan, the Tokyo Bureau began sending to the American Consulate General in Hong Kong items from Japanese sources relating to developments in China. Several military requesters, including the 441st Intelligence Corps Detachment of the First Special Forces Group, contacted the Okinawa Bureau in regard to material from Far East radios. On 22 December the Mediterranean Bureau added Cairo domestic service press reviews and "Voice of the Arabs" commentaries to the wire file for the American Embassy in Cairo. At the request of the German Bureau, Kyrenia also began filing the Cairo press review to [redacted]. The Panama Bureau mailed directly to an Agency requester a tape of Venezuelan President Leoni's speech of 16 December. (SECRET)

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13. Lateral Service Surveys: Bureaus are encouraged to survey lateral service consumers once a year to confirm the validity of requirements. The Liaison and Requirements Staff should be notified prior to a survey in order to assure coordination with other bureaus. The Mediterranean Bureau has begun a survey of its lateral consumers plus several in the multibureau sections of the Lateral Services List which can most easily be handled by the bureau. USSR/EE Roundup, World Health Organization Bulletin, and Economic Abstract consumers are also currently being surveyed.

To assist in Headquarters planning, when new regular field consumers are added to the Lateral Services List it should be clear whether the consumer is affiliated with the Organization, other national security agency, or a non-USIB agency. (SECRET)

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14. North China Survey: The test monitoring of Northeast China and Inner Mongolian regional radios at the Hokkaido Bureau, conducted 2-23 December, yielded substantial information on radios beyond the operational range of the Okinawa Bureau. Recordings were sent to the West Coast Bureau for transcription and to FOS for evaluation. The summaries produced by WCB Chinese-language monitors were collated and circulated among potential consumers. (SECRET)

15. ADP Proposals: FBIS has proposed to higher authority that a computer system be adopted for pre-editing copy for publication in the Daily Report. Under the proposed system, the field would indicate capitalization in copy by a special teletype function. Items would be relayed automatically to a computer system in Washington; the computer would remove communications headings and other extraneous material and cause copy to be printed out in upper and lower case. Headquarters editors would then select for publication, add headlines, and make additional changes as necessary. It is believed the system would assist substantially in coping with the increasing amount of information supplied the Daily Report by field bureaus.

In December an FOS proposal for processing the complete communication file by computer for derivation of statistics for management purposes was selected by ORD as a project to be considered experimentally. The Tokyo-Washington "Bravo" circuit has been selected for the experimentation. (SECRET)

16. Briefings and Visits: Tours were arranged for FBIS Headquarters personnel to the Organization's Operations Center and the Voice of America. The latter visit included a brief meeting with VOA Director John Chancellor, who expressed VOA's particular interest in fullest coverage of the Chinese radios.

The Chief, Bangkok Bureau paid calls on the USIS PAO in Bangkok and the J-2 MACTHAI/JUSMAG. Both officials said they were looking forward to receipt of the new bureau's product.

The Director of ORR visited the Okinawa Bureau on 8 December. (SECRET)

#### FIELD OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING

17. Broadcast Developments: The Peking International Service has doubled its broadcasting in Russian to the USSR, transmitting virtually around the clock. Soviet transmitters have stepped up jamming of these broadcasts on both short and medium wave bands. Peking Russian is covered by the West Coast and Hokkaido bureaus.

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The clandestine Pathet Lao radio introduced broadcasts in La Ve, a language of southern Laos, on 6 January. The Saigon Bureau is sampling the transmissions. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

18. AUTODIN Installation: Western Union installation crews began in mid-January to install AUTODIN equipment for Headquarters and the West Coast Bureau. (CONFIDENTIAL)

ADMINISTRATION

19. Training: The Chief, East Coast Bureau, attended a two-week seminar on International Affairs and Federal Operations conducted by the Civil Service Commission at its Executive Seminar Center, Kings Point, New York. The Chief, Executive Staff attended an orientation on Planning, Programming, and Budgeting, also conducted by the Civil Service Commission. (ADMINISTRATIVE-INTERNAL USE ONLY)

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EDITORIAL

1. Editors are requested to review the Editorial Handbook sections dealing with editorial reports and summaries. Several pieces of copy designated as editorial reports have required extensive re-editing to conform to style because they were either written in summary form or combined the two formats without proper distinction. There have also been instances of summaries being filed as editorial reports.

2. Selection of copy in the field should be based on the intrinsic value of the item rather than on what is or is not published in the Daily Report. To base a file on the percentage of material published, given the many factors influencing the inclusion of an item in the book, is self-defeating and undermines the overall mission, inasmuch as it does not take into consideration the other means of dissemination such as the Wire or the specific needs of lateral consumers and FBIS Headquarters components.

PERSONNEL

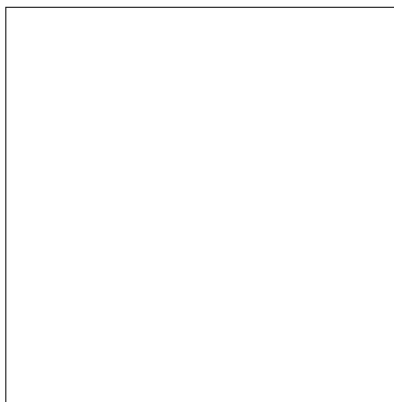
3. New Employees



Assignment

Admin Clerk, Okinawa Bureau 50X1  
Teletypist, Wire Service Branch, Edit. Div.  
Editor, ME/AFR/WE/LA Branch, Editorial Div.  
Editor, USSR & EE Branch, Editorial Div.  
Editor, Far East Branch, Editorial Division

4. Reassignments

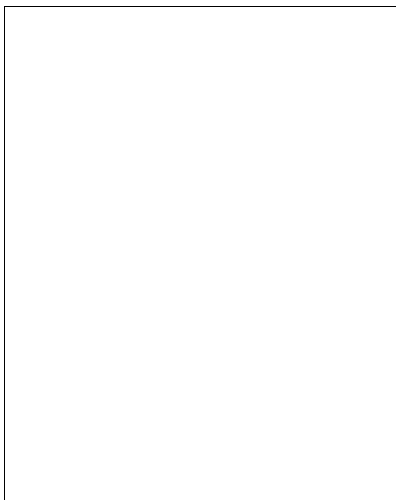


| <u>From</u>                        | <u>To</u>   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Senior Editor<br>East Coast Bureau | Sec. Ch, ME/AFR/WE/LA 50X1<br>Branch, Editorial Div |
| Editor<br>West Coast Bureau        | Editor<br>Tokyo Bureau                              |
| Editor<br>Editorial Division       | Editor<br>West Coast Bureau                         |
| Editor<br>Editorial Division       | Editor<br>West Coast Bureau                         |



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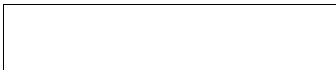
4. Reassignments (Cont'd)



| <u>From</u>                             | <u>To</u>                          |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Chief Engineer<br>African Bureau        | Engineer<br>Engineering Staff      |
| BI Specialist<br>Field Operations Staff | Cruising Monitor<br>Okinawa Bureau |
| Senior Editor<br>Editorial Division     | Senior Editor<br>East Coast Bureau |
| Typist<br>Editorial Division            | Typist<br>Radio Prop. Div.         |
| Deputy Chief<br>Mediterranean Bureau    | Deputy Chief<br>Editorial Division |

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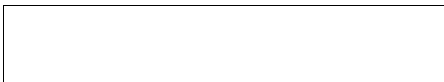
5. Retirement



| <u>From</u>                      |
|----------------------------------|
| Senior Editor, West Coast Bureau |

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6. Resignation



| <u>From</u>                   |
|-------------------------------|
| Librarian, Editorial Division |

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ROGER G. SEELY  
Director  
Foreign Broadcast Information Service